

# Quarterly Newsletter

April, May, June 2010

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*Preserving Soil & Water  
through Conservation*

## Search for Missouri Century Farms Continues

COLUMBIA, Mo. – If your farm has been in your family since Dec. 31, 1910, you can apply to have it recognized as a Missouri Century Farm.

To qualify, the same family must have owned the farm for 100 consecutive years. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings, and nephews or nieces, including those related through marriage or adoption. The farm must have at least 40 acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.

“It is important to honor and respect our history,” said Michael Quart, MU vice provost and director of extension. “These farms represent both Missouri’s cultural heritage and the good stewardship that our farmers strive for.”

Since Missouri began the program in 1976, more than 7,000 century farms have been recognized. In 2008, the Missouri Farm Bureau joined MU Extension and the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources as a program sponsor.

“Missouri Farm Bureau is proud to partner in the recognition of these unique and historical family farms,” said Charles Kruse, MFB president. “They represent the continued importance of production agriculture to our state and nation.”

Applicants certified as owners of a 2010 Missouri Century Farm will be recognized by the MU Extension office in the county where the farm is located. Applicants receive a sign and a certificate.

For applications received by May 1, a \$45 fee covers the cost of certificates, farm signs and booklets for approved applicants. If the application is received between May 1 and May 17, the cost is \$55. Applications must be postmarked by May 17, 2010, to be considered.

For application forms and information, call MU Extension Publications toll-free at 1-800-292-0969, contact your local extension office at 546-7515 or visit the program Web site at <http://extension.missouri.edu/centuryfarm>.



## How To Take A Garden Soil Sample

- Take a spade and clean pail.
- Push spade deep into soil.
- Throw out a spade full of soil.
- Cut a 1/2-inch to 1-inch slice of soil from the back of the hole with the spade. Be sure the slice goes 7 inches deep and is fairly even in width and thickness. Place this sample slice in the pail.
- Repeat five or six times at different spots over your garden.
- Thoroughly mix the six or seven slices you have in the pail.
- After thoroughly mixing, take out about one pint of soil and take it to the Iron County Extension Office, on the third floor of the Courthouse. For a field or pasture, call the Extension Office at 546-7515 for details. The cost is \$15 per soil test.



University of Missouri, Lincoln University,  
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University of Missouri Extension does not  
discriminate on the basis of race, color, national  
origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age  
disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran.

## Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District

### Quail Field Day

#### Integrating Beef, Bobwhites and Biofuels

"Managing Wildlife and Native Plants In Agriculture Field Day" MU Bradford Research and Extension Center, Columbia, Missouri, **2 pm to 8 pm June 17th.**

Designed for landowners, students, quail & native plant enthusiasts to hear the latest information, meet exhibitors, and see new products. Open to the Public – No fee and No Reservations Required. Drinks and Hamburgers provided.

**Six All New One Hour Wagon Tours Include:** Landscaping with Native Plants - *Backyard Habitats, Plant ID and Rain Gardens* • Patch Burn Grazing, Native Warm Season Grass and Forb Management For Livestock • Biofuels and Wildlife – What are the Keys to Success for Conservation and Livestock Production • Enhancing Quail Habitat and Crop Field Management - *Field Borders and Edge Feathering* • Forage Management Options for Wildlife and Livestock–*Native Cool Season Grass Alternatives to Tall Fescue* • Back Forty – Implementing Wildlife Practices on Your Farm • **2:00 and 3:00 PM - Indoor Workshops: Introduction to Quail Ecology**

**Directions:** From the junction of U. S. 63 and Hwy AC on the south edge of Columbia, go 5.5 miles east on New Haven Rd, turn right (south) on Rangeline Rd. and go just over a mile to the Bradford Farm entrance on the right.

<http://aes.missouri.edu/Bradford>

**For More Information Contact: Tim Reinbott: 573-884-7945 or Bob Pierce: 573-882-4337**

**Sponsored by:** University of Missouri, MU Extension, USDA NRCS, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Soybean Association

### Grazing Schools

Missouri Forage and Grassland Council will be hosting grazing school at the following locations:

Location	Dates	Contact Person
Farmington (MAC)	May 12-13	Patty Coffman 573-883-3566 ext.3
West Plains	May 25-27	Stacy Hambelton 417-679-3525
Willow Springs	September 1-3	Amber Comstock 417-256-7117
Union	September 21-22	Lori Nowak 636-538-2303

For a complete list of grazing schools, visit <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc/schools.htm>

### Arbor Day



Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska, as a result of Julius Sterling Morton's love of nature. Morton was a Nebraska journalist and politician, originally from Michigan, and because of his journalism, was able to bring awareness to the general public of the importance of trees. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted that first Arbor Day in Nebraska. Morton served as Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland.

For more information on how to plant, care for and identify your trees, visit the Arbor Day Foundation online at: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

### We're on the Web

We now have a web site. Check us out at [www.swcd.mo.gov/iron](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/iron). This is an on-going project, so be sure to check back often. New information will be added as we get it, along with upcoming events & pictures, links and other information.

No-till Drill  
Available to Rent  
\$8.00 per Acre

Call 573-546-6518  
For more information



Soil test kits are available through the Extension office

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Specialist and County Program Director  
Elaine Willhite, Office Manager

## Soil Savers Corner

As you plant your garden this spring, make a fun hiding place for your children. Fasten 3 or 4 eight foot poles together at the top, and stick them into the ground to make a teepee shape. Plant 3 pole bean seeds at the base of each pole. As the beans grow, they will make a cool, green teepee that your kids will love. And they just might eat beans for dinner if they get the chance to pick them themselves!!

If you're starting your beans inside, they can be planted outside once the risk of frost is over, usually mid to late May. Once the first bean pods are ready to be harvested, keep picking them every few days to ensure the plants keep flowering and producing more pods. Once a pod reaches full maturity, the flowering process is shut down. For an even more colorful display, interplant climbing flowering plants too, such as climbing Nasturtiums or Black-Eyed Susan. Cats love these shady hide-aways too!

## Routine Checklist for Your Cow Herd

**By: Kendra Graham, University of Missouri Extension Regional Livestock Specialist**

Weaning time is a great time to perform routine checks on your cow herd. Below is a list of things you can do to ensure your cows are healthy and producing.

**Give cows a body condition score** - mature cows should have a 5 condition score or better, heifers a 6 or better.

**Pregnancy check your cows** - it is expensive to feed a non-producing cow through the winter.

**Give an udder score** - Rate on a 1-5 scale with 1 being a small udder with small teats and 5 being a large udder with large teats. A calf has to get under the cow and be able to fit its mouth over the teat. A poor udder can reduce weaning weights. I want to stress that the size of the udder has no bearing on how much milk a cow gives. A small-uddered cow can give more milk than a cow with a big bag.

**Check eyes, teeth, feet, and legs** - all of these things will reduce production. A cow with no teeth will not have a proper diet. Poor feet and legs restrict movement and possible feed intake, severe pinkeye and cancer eye can cause bad infections.

**Weigh your cows** - we always under or overestimate our cow size. Most cows these days will easily weigh 1200 pounds or more. A correct cow weight will ensure you are feeding her enough.

· Weigh your calves - weaning weights can be a great culling tool. We often forget how well one cow did from one year to the next.

**Retag cows** - identification is a key to proper management, no matter how well you think you know your cows. Cow number 4 tends to be more reliable than that ole cow with the white tail, especially when you keep her heifer calf in the herd that looks just like her.

**Keep records** - we tend to play favorites and give too many second chances to our cow herd. Records provide us with a black-and-white version of how our cows did from year-to-year. When the numbers stack up against a cow SELL HER and don't keep heifer calves out of her!

**Give shots** - Lepto is the most common shot given to cows at this time. You may want to make sure it has Harjo-Bovis in it. This strain of lepto has been found in the United States and is not in most of the common lepto vaccines. Other shots to consider are respiratory - IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV. Use killed vaccine if your cows are pregnant, otherwise the modified live vaccine provides better protection. A scours vaccine might also be helpful.

**Parasite control** - if you have been using the same type of dewormer for a while it may pay to switch to avoid resistance. When I say switch I mean switch active ingredients not just brands. For example, switch from a "mectin" product such as ivermectin to a bendazole product such as fenbendazole. Make sure your dewormer includes lice control.



...to get your vet to do a Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) on your bull. This entails a semen check and a thorough physical evaluation to see if all parts are working correctly. A simple check can save you a lot of money when it comes time for your cows to calve again and they don't because your bull was not getting the job done.

### § Money Management: Living on Less

Learning how to spend less but still live well takes skill, determination and know-how — but it can be done! Before you buy, ask yourself, "Is there another way to get what we need or want? Can we recycle? Share someone else's? Make rather than buy? Rent? Trade? Or use public services?" These are all ways to stretch scarce resources when you have to.

**Extension Guide GH3600, Money Management: Living on Less** includes more than 80 ideas to help you live on less. They are designed to help you meet your needs even after income has been reduced. Most of the ideas are practical, everyday things you can do to cut expenses.

To get this free publication, come by the Extension Office, or call us at 546-7515.

## Water Quality Meeting Held at Johnson Shut-Ins State Park

by Mary Giles, USDA-NRCS South Missouri Water Quality Project

The Black River Center meeting room in Johnson Shut-ins State Park was a beautiful setting for the March 11, 2010 meeting of the South Missouri Water Quality Project steering committee. The steering committee holds meetings three times during the year in various locations throughout the Upper White River Watershed, and this was the first to be held in the northeastern section. Individuals representing agency and partnering organizations were in attendance. Terri Matthews, and new steering committee member, Kenny Wooten, represented Iron County SWCD. Kenny will provide guidance to the committee on water quality issues in Reynolds and Iron Counties.



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Honored guest, JR Flores, Missouri NRCS State Conservationist, provided a brief overview of the NRCS 75th anniversary celebration emphasis during 2010, and discussed NRCS operations. In addition, he stressed the importance of alliances with partners such as the SWCDs in getting conservation practices on the land.

Another highlight of the meeting was an interesting, informative presentation on the failure, restoration, and rebuilding of Taum Sauk Dam, given by Cliff Baumer, NRCS Environmental Engineer at the NRCS State Office in Columbia.

The South Missouri Water Quality Project is a project office of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and is located in Ozark, MO. The purpose of the office is to protect and sustain the water resources of the Upper White River Watershed. This is accomplished by providing free, voluntary, technical assistance to the public located within the project area.

The watershed contains nine major sub-watershed basins that drain ultimately to the Mississippi River. The Missouri section comprises 6.7 million acres of land and covers parts of 21 southern Missouri counties. Sources of pollution are numerous within the basin and include municipal, suburban, agriculture, failing septic systems, erosion, and tourism.

The project office does not have a regulatory role and does not issue fines or citations. Service is provided upon request. The staff provides assistance to farmers, developers, and property owners in both rural and urban settings within the 21 county area. Individuals seek assistance with issues related to non-point source pollution and other water quality concerns. These concerns may include tree planting, forest stand improvement, wildlife habitat improvement, erosion, storm water, septic tanks, well decommissioning, watershed planning, and farm and urban soil testing and/or nutrient management planning. In addition, specialized technical service can be provided to large groups or entities such as city governments or watershed organizations.

For more information about the USDA-NRCS South Missouri Water Quality Project, contact Kenny Wooten at the Iron County SWCD at 573-546-6518, or Steve Hefner, Project Team Leader, at the South Missouri Water Quality Project Office at 417-581-2719.

x5. **USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

### Financial & Technical Assistance Available From DNR

**Are you concerned about losing valuable topsoil on your farm? Do you want to make the most of the fertilizer you apply?**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil & Water Conservation Program provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners to control erosion or improve water quality by voluntarily installing best management practices on their land. The Soil & Water Conservation Program is funded by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax and administers those funds through local soil and water conservation districts. For more information, stop by the Iron County District office or call 573-546-6518.

**Upcoming Events** ♦ April 22nd - Earth Day ♦ April 30th - Arbor Day ♦ May 6th - SWCD Annual Dinner Meeting

**Upcoming Holidays** ♦ May 9th - Mother's Day ♦ May 31st-Memorial Day - Our offices will be closed ♦ June 20th - Father's Day